

- (b) an absorbent layer disposed between said top sheet and said backsheet, said absorbent layer being defined by opposed spaced apart longitudinal sides each having a proximal end and a distal end, and opposed spaced apart proximal and distal lateral sides;
- (c) means for fastening said absorbent article around the waist portion of a wearer of the absorbent article; and
- (d) a barrier layer overlying a portion of said top sheet, said barrier layer being defined by three sides, a longitudinal side attached along a portion of one longitudinal side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said longitudinal side, a lateral side attached along a portion of one lateral side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said lateral side, and a free elasticized diagonal side connecting the end on said longitudinal side to the end of said lateral side thereby forming a retaining enclosure between said barrier layer and said top sheet of said absorbent article.

29/18. An integral disposable absorbent article as in claim 17 wherein the terminal end on said lateral side of said absorbent article is located at about the middle of said lateral side.

30/19. An integral disposable absorbent article as in claim 17 wherein the terminal end on said longitudinal side of said absorbent article is located between the middle and the distal end of said longitudinal side.

31/20. An integral disposable absorbent article as in claim 17 wherein the terminal end on said lateral side of said absorbent article is located at about the middle of said lateral side and said terminal end on said longitudinal side of said absorbent article is located between the middle and end of said longitudinal side.

32-21.

- An integral disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis, comprising:
- (a) an absorbent body having a top sheet, a backsheet, a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;
 - (b) an absorbent layer having a longitudinal axis and a horizontal axis disposed between said top sheet and said backsheet, said absorbent layer being defined by opposed spaced apart longitudinal sides each having a proximal end and a distal end, and opposed spaced apart proximal and distal lateral sides, and having a top surface and an opposed bottom surface;
 - (c) means for fastening said absorbent article around the waist portion of a wearer of the absorbent article; and
 - (d) two barrier layers; a first barrier layer overlying a first portion of the top sheet and a second barrier layer overlying a second portion of said top sheet, said first barrier layer being defined by three sides; a first longitudinal side attached along a portion of the first longitudinal side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said first longitudinal side, a first lateral side attached along a portion of said lateral side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said first lateral side, and a free elasticized diagonal side connecting the terminal end on said first longitudinal side and the terminal end on said first lateral side, thereby forming a first retaining enclosure between said first barrier layer and said first portion of said top sheet; a second barrier layer having three sides, a second longitudinal side attached along a portion of the second longitudinal side of said absorbent core member and having a terminal end on said second longitudinal side, a second lateral side attached along a portion of said second lateral side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said second lateral side, and a free elasticized diagonal side connecting the terminal end on said second longitudinal side to the terminal end of said second lateral side thereby forming a second retaining enclosure between said second barrier layer and said second portion of said top sheet of said absorbent article.

33/22. An integral disposable absorbent article as in claim 21 wherein the terminal end on said first lateral side is located at about the middle of said first lateral side and the terminal end on said second lateral side is located at about the middle of said second lateral side.

34/23. An integral disposable absorbent article as in claim 21 wherein the terminal end on said first longitudinal side of said absorbent article is located between the middle and distal end of said first longitudinal side, and the terminal end on said second longitudinal side of said absorbent article is located between the middle end and distal end of said second longitudinal side.

35/24. An integral disposable absorbent article as in claim 21 wherein the terminal end on said first lateral side is located at about the middle of said first lateral side, the terminal end on said second lateral side is located at about the middle of said second lateral side, the terminal end on said first longitudinal side is located between the middle and distal end of said first longitudinal side, and the terminal end on said second longitudinal side is located between the middle and distal end of said second longitudinal side.

- Pub. F13/25. 1 An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article having a longitudinal
2 axis and a lateral axis, comprising:
(a) 3 a top sheet, a backsheet, a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a
4 crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;
(b) 5 an absorbent layer having a longitudinal axis and a
6 horizontal axis disposed between said top sheet and said backsheet, said
7 absorbent layer being defined by opposed spaced apart longitudinal sides
8 each having a proximal end and a distal end, and opposed spaced apart
9 proximal and distal lateral sides;

- (c) means for fastening said absorbent article around the waist portion of a wearer of the absorbent article; and
- (d) two arched-shaped elasticized barrier layers; a first generally concave elasticized barrier layer having one end attached between the middle and distal end of one of said longitudinal sides and second end attached between the middle and distal end of the other one of said longitudinal side thereby forming a first retaining enclosure between said first barrier layer and said topsheet; and a second generally convex elasticized barrier layer having one end attached between the middle and proximal end of one of said longitudinal sides and the other end attached between the middle and distal end of the other one of said longitudinal sides thereby forming a second retaining enclosure between said second barrier layer and said topsheet, and wherein said first and second arched-shaped elasticized barrier layers intersect to form a double barrier layer on said top sheet of said absorbent article.

- 37 26. An integral disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis and a lateral axis, comprising:
- (a) an absorbent body having a top sheet, a backsheet, a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;
- (b) an absorbent layer having a longitudinal axis and a horizontal axis disposed between said top sheet and said backsheet, said absorbent layer being defined by opposed spaced apart longitudinal sides each having a proximal end and a distal end, and opposed spaced apart proximal and distal lateral sides;

- (c) means for fastening said absorbent body around the waist portion of a wearer of the absorbent article; and
- (d) four barrier layers; a first barrier layer overlying a portion of the top sheet, a second barrier layer overlying a second portion of the top sheet, a third barrier layer overlying a third portion of the top sheet, and a fourth barrier layer overlying a portion of the top sheet, said first barrier layer having three sides; a left longitudinal side attached along a portion of the left longitudinal side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said left longitudinal side, a top lateral side attached along a portion of the top lateral side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said top lateral side, and a first free elasticized diagonal side connecting the terminal end on said left longitudinal side and the terminal end on said top lateral side, thereby forming a first retaining enclosure between said first barrier layer and said first portion of said topsheet; a second barrier layer having three sides, a right longitudinal side attached along a portion of the right longitudinal side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said right longitudinal side, a top lateral side attached along a portion of said top lateral side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said top lateral side, and a second free elasticized diagonal side connecting the terminal end on said right longitudinal side to the terminal end on said top lateral side thereby forming a second retaining enclosure between said second barrier layer and said second portion of said topsheet; a third barrier layer having three sides, a left longitudinal side attached along a portion of the left longitudinal side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said left longitudinal side, a lateral side attached along a portion of said lateral

side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said lateral side, and a third free elasticized diagonal side connecting the terminal end on said left longitudinal side and the terminal end on said lateral side, thereby forming a third retaining enclosure between said third barrier layer and said third portion of said topsheet; a fourth barrier layer having three sides, a right longitudinal side attached along a portion of the right longitudinal side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said right longitudinal side, a lateral side of said absorbent article and having a terminal end on said lateral side, and a fourth elasticized diagonal side connecting the terminal end on said right longitudinal side to the terminal end on said lateral side thereby forming a fourth retaining enclosure between said fourth barrier layer and said fourth portion of said topsheet.

5021. An integral disposable absorbent article as in claim 26 wherein the diagonal side of said first elasticized barrier layer intersects the diagonal side of said third elasticized barrier layer to form a first dual barrier layer on said topsheet, and the diagonal side of said second elasticized barrier layer intersects the diagonal side of said fourth elasticized barrier layer to form a second dual barrier layer on said topsheet.

REMARKS

Claims 17-21 have been amended. As amended the claims are believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112 and are also patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over United States Patent No. 4,897,084 (Ternstrom et al.). No new matter has been introduced by the claims. The amended claims find support in the drawings and related disclosures in the specification as follows: